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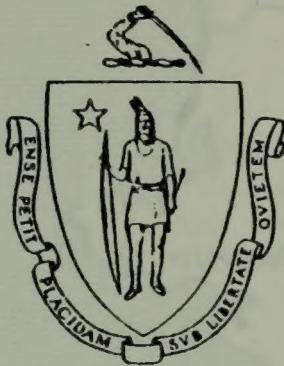
1977

*Massachusetts
Coastal
Lobster Fishery
Statistics*

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MASSACHUSETTS
DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES



1977

Massachusetts Coastal Lobster Fishery Statistics

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by

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Division of Marine Fisheries

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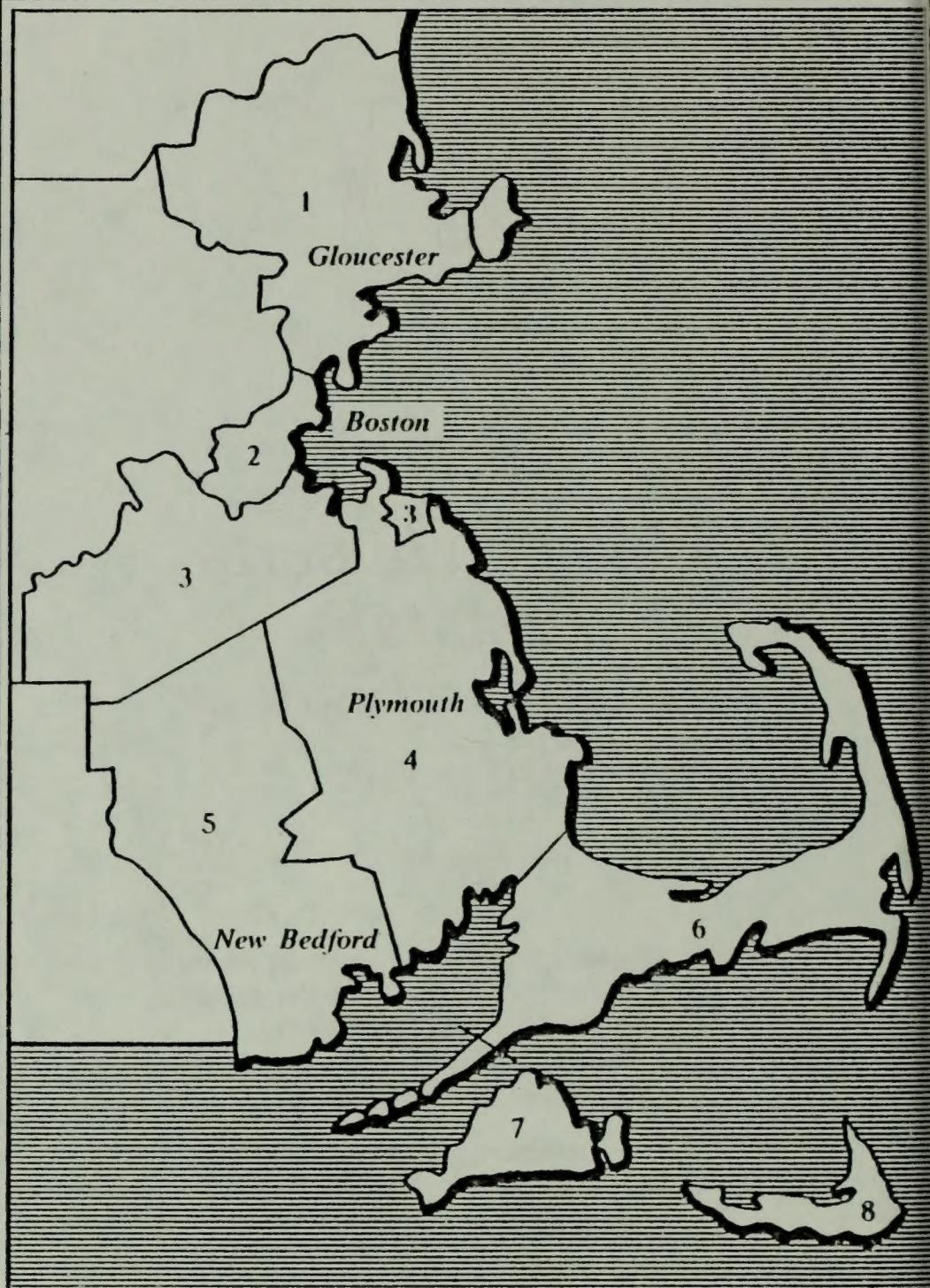
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COASTAL MAP of MASSACHUSETTS
SHOWING STATISTICAL REPORTING AREAS (Counties)

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Essex | 3. Norfolk | 5. Bristol | 7. Dukes |
| 2. Suffolk | 4. Plymouth | 6. Barnstable | 8. Nantucket |

INTRODUCTION

The coastal lobster fishery of Massachusetts continues to be the most economically important single fishery conducted within the territorial waters of the Commonwealth.

Each passing year finds the lobster fishery becoming even more complex, involving far-reaching biological, sociological and economic considerations.

A moratorium now limits the issuance of coastal lobster permits to 1,300 per year, with renewal preference given to fishermen who held a valid permit for the prior year, actually lobstered during that year, and filed a completed catch report. There is also a provision for the issuance of an additional 130 permits to those who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission that they would suffer a substantial hardship if the permit were not granted to them.

This report constitutes the tenth such annual presentation of coastal lobster statistics in a standardized format. It has been prepared by personnel of the division's commercial fisheries statistics project, financed jointly by state and federal funds under the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act of 1964, Public Law 88-309.

The coastal lobstermen of Massachusetts, commercial and non-commercial, potmen and/or divers, have provided the data included here through their annual catch reports. They deserve a special thanks, as do the division personnel who assisted in processing and preparing the wealth of material this report represents.

SOURCE OF DATA

No person may fish for or take lobsters or edible crabs in coastal waters or land the same in the Commonwealth without a permit issued by the Director, Division of Marine Fisheries (Chapter 130, G.L., Section 38).

Chapter 130, G.L., Section 33, requires any person so licensed to file an annual report of his catch by January 31 for the preceding calendar year. License renewal applications and catch report forms are mailed to licensees at the end of the calendar year.

The reports require the following information; permittees' name, address and permanent lobster number; method (s) used, (pots and/or diving); numbers, types and current value of gear used; percent that gear was used specifically for lobstering; numbers/pounds of lobsters taken and value if sold; principal port(s) of landing. Project personnel sort, edit and tabulate all reports.

Statistics presented in this booklet are based on reports received, and are not expanded to the 100% level.

EXPLANATION OF TABLES

AREA

Statistics are reported for the county in which the catch was landed. Data was placed in the county category of "other" when the catch was landed in more than two counties or the county of landing could not be determined.

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION

Massachusetts' coastal lobster fishermen fall into three distinct categories, with a specific license for each; full-time commercial (\$100), seasonal commercial (\$25), and non-commercial (\$15). For statistical purposes they are classed as "regular", "casual", and "other", respectively. They are further sub-classed according to their method of fishing; potmen, divers, or combination potmen-divers.

\$100 Commercial Coastal Lobster Permit entitles the licensee to use any number of pots and/or dive, to sell his catch and to fish within territorial waters throughout the calendar year. The license could be taken in his name or in the name of his boat, in which latter case anyone aboard the boat could assist him with no other licenses required.

A \$25 Seasonal Lobster Permit allows the licensee to use up to 25 pots from June 15 through September 15 and sell the catch. Diving is not allowed, and this permit is issued to full-time students only.

The \$15 Non-Commercial lobster permit authorizes the holder to fish for, take and land lobsters for consumption by himself or his immediate family only. The licensee could use up to ten pots and/or dive lobsters but could not sell his catch.

VALUES

The value of the catch is determined by the price received by the fisherman. When individual values were omitted, an average price for that area was applied to the poundage listed.

Gear values were calculated on the basis of the fisherman's estimate of its current value and the percentage of its use specifically for lobstering. Average gear values for the county were applied when data was omitted.

The average value of pots from all areas combined was \$15 per pot. This value was assigned where that data was omitted on the reports.

1977 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) There were 10,072 coastal lobster licenses of all types issued in 1977: 1,371 full-time commercial, 142 seasonal commercial and 8,559 non-commercial.
- 2) Of a total of 5,713 lobster fishermen reporting, 2,129 reported they did not lobster during 1977.
- 3) A total of 5,765,530 pounds of lobsters were reported landed. Of these commercial fishermen (regular and casual) landed 5,432,427 pounds of lobsters which they sold for \$10,136,748.
- 4) Regular fishermen comprised 21% of the total numbers of lobstermen fishing, set 91% of the pots and landed 94% of the total pounds of lobsters taken.
- 5) Non-commercial ("other") fishermen comprised 77% of all fishermen and landed 6% of the total catch in pounds.
- 6) Divers comprised 34% of the fishermen reporting and landed less than 2% of the total poundage reported.

- 7) In total pounds of lobsters landed, Essex County ranked first, Plymouth County second, and Suffolk County third.
- 8) In total numbers of fishermen, Essex County ranked first with 2,164, Plymouth County second with 1,462, and Barnstable County third with 856.
- 9) Pots were valued at \$3,551,940, diving gear at \$638,555 and boats of all types at \$12,017,029, yielding a total gear value of \$16,207,524. Combining that with the value of lobsters sold \$10,136,748 gives a total fishery value of \$26,344,272.

The reader is referred to Tables 1-15 for detailed statistics.

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TABLE I

COMPARISON OF SELECTED COASTAL LOBSTER STATISTICS

1972 - 1977

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Licenses Issued	7,729	9,048	9,688	9,744	9,637	10,072
Licenses Fishing	4,763	4,906	4,405	5,645	5,638	5,713
Lobsters Landed (lbs.)	4,222,097	3,680,554	3,882,535	5,203,315	5,053,453	5,765,530
Value, Lobsters Sold	\$4,015,962	\$5,092,988	\$5,515,851	\$8,827,005	\$8,270,520	\$10,126,748
Total Fishery Value*	\$10,689,238	\$11,138,352	\$12,049,535	\$21,011,917	\$21,907,174	\$26,364,272
Pots Fished	175,573	169,749	156,987	213,468	240,035	236,796
Average Catch (lbs.)						
All Fishermen	890	750	881	922	806	1,009
Reg. Fishermen	4,222	3,847	4,173	4,078	3,925	4,554
Casual Fishermen	201	200	159	183	189	211
Other Fishermen	66	65	61	67	65	75
Avg. Catch/Pot (lbs.)	24.0	21.3	22.8	24.4	20.9	26.3
Avg. Price/ (lbs.)	123.3¢	148.6¢	150.2¢	179.9¢	173.3¢	186.6¢
Avg. Wt./Lobster (lbs.)	1.19	1.14	1.27	1.31	1.20	1.19

* Includes value of lobsters sold, current value of boats, pots, diving gear.

TABLE 2

Number and Types of Lobster Licenses Issued in 1977

\$100 Commercial (coastal)	1,371
\$25 Seasonal	142
\$15 Non-Commercial	<u>8,559</u>
TOTAL	10,072

TABLE 3

Status of Licensees Filing Catch Reports for 1977

Licensees Reporting	5,713
Licensees Fishing:	
\$100 Commercial	1,189
\$25 Seasonal	83
\$15 Non-Commercial	<u>4,441</u>
TOTAL	5,713
Licensees Not Fishing in 1977	2,129

TABLE 4

Total Value of Massachusetts Coastal Lobster Fishery, 1977*

Gear:

Pots	\$3,551,940
Diving Gear	638,555
Boats	<u>12,017,029</u>
Lobster Sold	<u>10,136,748</u>
TOTAL	\$26,344,272

*Based on Annual Reports of Fishermen

TABLE 5

NUMBER OF FISHERMEN
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	117	65	29	508	5	61	276
DIVERS	5	1					1
POTMAN-DIVERS	9			5		4	4
SUB-TOTAL	131	66	29	513	5	65	280
CASUAL							
POTMEN	5	4	30			3	37
DIVERS							4
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL	5	4	30			3	37
OTHER							
POTMEN	480	114	70	554	9	102	707
DIVERS	184	11	7	983		58	354
POTMAN-DIVERS	56	4	4	84		10	84
SUB-TOTAL	720	129	81	1,621	9	170	1,145
TOTAL	856	199	110	2,164	14	238	1,462
							459
							211
							5,713

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 5

NUMBERS OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR	309,934	165,104	46,915	2,021,859	4,143	321,891	886,915
POTMEN							764,891
DIVERS	8,490	66					26,200
POTMAN DIVERS	17,415			11,023		7,781	8,857
SUB-TOTAL	335,839	165,170	46,915	2,032,881	4,143	329,672	895,772
CASUAL							767,256
POTMEN	380		282	5,037		917	6,678
DIVERS							482
POTMAN DIVERS							
SUM-TOTAL	380		282	5,037		917	6,678
OTHER							482
POTMEN	27,997	6,450	3,200	43,430	391	10,403	51,460
DIVERS	7,542	105	123	24,685		1,942	11,251
POTMAN DIVERS	3,449	246	39	5,900		1,538	5,463
SUB-TOTAL	38,988	7,001	3,362	74,015	391	13,883	68,174
TOTAL	375,207	172,171	50,559	2,111,933	4,534	344,472	970,624
							791,512
							31,624
							4,852,636

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 7

POUNDS OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR	460,988	201,161	54,924	2,279,355	6,425	380,186	1,036,525
POTMEN							877,023
DIVERS	16,233	82					900
POTMAN-DIVERS	36,299						1,953
SUB-TOTAL	513,520	201,243	54,924	2,291,538	6,425	389,053	1,046,568
CASUAL							879,878
POTMEN	604		425	6,189		1,075	8,613
DIVERS							589
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL	604		425	6,189		1,075	8,613
OTHER							589
POTMEN	39,339	9,096	4,627	55,454	718	13,949	68,997
DIVERS	13,804	465	199	37,271		3,043	18,389
POTMAN-DIVERS	6,134	459	56	7,657		2,416	8,151
SUB-TOTAL	59,277	10,020	4,882	100,382	718	19,408	95,531
TOTAL	573,401	211,263	60,231	2,398,109	7,143	409,536	1,150,714
							915,473
							39,660
							5,765,530

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 8

EX-VESSEL VALUE OF LOBSTERS LANDED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	960,407	384,347	116,132	1,193,852	13,703	707,649	1,947,451
DIVERS	32,462	150					34,142
POTMAN-DIVERS	76,498			24,001		15,994	18,344
SUB-TOTAL	1,069,367	384,497	116,132	4,217,853	13,703	723,643	1,965,795
CASUAL							
POTMEN	1,094		965	11,744		1,940	15,105
DIVERS							1,000
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL	1,094		965	11,744		1,940	15,105
OTHER							
POTMEN							
DIVERS							
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL							
TOTAL	1,070,461	384,497	117,097	4,229,597	13,703	725,583	1,980,900
							1562,613
							52,297
							10,136,748

* Based on annual reports filed by fishermen

TABLE 9

NUMBER OF POTS FISHED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	22,720	11,920	3,889	64,915	777	11,027	28,742
DIVERS							680
POTMAN-DIVERS	1,923			780		760	550
SUB-TOTAL	24,643	11,920	3,889	85,695	777	11,787	28,842
CASUAL							680
POTMEN	70		60	622		62	744
DIVERS							58
POTMAN-DIVERS							1,616
SUB-TOTAL	70		60	622		62	744
OTHER							
POTMEN	3,110	885	467	4,460	53	750	5,623
DIVERS							1,179
POTMAN-DIVERS	325	31	22	567		85	567
SUB-TOTAL	3,435	916	489	5,027	53	835	6,190
TOTAL	28,148	12,836	4,438	91,344	330	12,684	55,190
						30,319	1,007
							236,796

* Based on annual reports filed by fishermen

TABLE 10

VALUE OF POTS FISHED
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	MANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	340,800	178,800	58,335	1,273,725	11,655	165,405	715,590
DIVERS							431,130
POTMAN-DIVERS	28,845			11,700		11,400	8,250
SUB-TOTAL	369,645	178,800	58,335	1,285,425	11,655	176,805	723,840
CASUAL							432,630
POTMEN	1,050		900	9,330		930	11,160
DIVERS							870
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL	1,050		900	9,330		930	11,160
OTHER							870
POTMEN	46,650	13,275	7,005	66,900	795	11,250	84,345
DIVERS							17,685
POTMAN-DIVERS	4,875	465	330	8,503		1,275	8,505
SUB-TOTAL	51,525	13,740	7,335	75,403	795	12,525	92,850
TOTAL	422,220	192,540	66,570	1,370,160	12,450	190,260	827,850
							454,785
							15,105
							3,551,940

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 11

VALUE OF DIVING GEAR

IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	PLYMOUTH	
REGULAR							
POTMEN							
DIVERS	11,820	550					12,620
POTMAN-DIVERS	7,375			795		740	9,890
SUB-TOTAL	19,195	550		795		740	22,510
CASUAL							
POTMEN							
DIVERS							
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL							
OTHER							
POTMEN							
DIVERS	59,207	3,597	1,187	270,464	0	17,028	110,105
POTMAN-DIVERS	15,029	1,399	429	20,941	0	3,871	19,204
SUB-TOTAL	74,236	4,996	1,616	291,405	0	20,899	129,309
TOTAL	93,431	5,546	1,616	292,200	0	21,639	130,259
							43,707
							638,555

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 12

NUMBER OF INBOARD BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	62	44	21	347	2	30	142
DIVERS	2						65
POTMAN-DIVERS	3			3		1	
SUB-TOTAL	67	44	21	350	2	31	143
CASUAL							65
POTMEN				5			4
DIVERS						1	
POTMAN-DIVERS							227
SUB-TOTAL				5			6
OTHER						1	
POTMEN	56	17	12	60	2	14	99
DIVERS	2	1	0	27	0	2	9
POTMAN-DIVERS	4	0	0	13	0	4	11
SUB-TOTAL	62	18	12	100	2	20	119
TOTAL	129	62	33	455	4	51	263
							150
							10
							1,157

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

TABLE 13

VALUE OF INBOARD BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	PLYMOUTH	
REGULAR							
POTMEN	1,422,900	600,700	220,230	3,242,940	15,429	494,130	1,575,417
DIVERS	7,700						7,700
POTMAN-DIVERS	90,000			33,750		5,000	133,750
SUB-TOTAL	1,520,600	600,700	220,230	3,276,690	15,429	499,130	1,580,417
CASUAL							
POTMEN				3,929		500	
DIVERS							
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL				3,929		500	
OTHER	158,891	27,627	26,534	106,251	5,010	13,838	222,385
POTMEN							162,292
DIVERS	4,400	1,000	0	78,680	0	6,600	13,690
POTMAN-DIVERS	5,855	0	0	17,550	0	2,925	19,455
SUB-TOTAL	170,146	28,627	26,534	202,481	5,010	23,363	255,520
TOTAL	1,690,746	629,327	246,764	3,483,096	20,439	522,493	1,836,437
						1,007,867	74,972
							9,512,141

* Based on annual reports filed by fishermen

TABLE 14

NUMBER OF OUTBOARD AND NON-POWER BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY
1977*

* Based on annual reports filed by fishermen

TABLE 15

VALUE OF OUTBOARD AND NON-POWER BOATS
IN MASSACHUSETTS COASTAL LOBSTER FISHERY

1977*

FISHERMAN CLASSIFICATION	COUNTIES						TOTAL
	BARNSTABLE	BRISTOL	DUKES	ESSEX	NANTUCKET	NORFOLK	
REGULAR	38,158	10,950	401,923	4,159	134,660	307,815	78,198
POTMEN	172,758	500					300
DIVERS	8,200	500					2,000
POTMAN-DIVERS	19,734		4,146		9,500	5,760	810
SUB-TOTAL	200,693	38,658	10,950	406,068	4,159	144,160	313,575
CASUAL							81,008
POTMEN	4,175		980	13,877		2,640	22,998
DIVERS							1,686
POTMAN-DIVERS							
SUB-TOTAL	4,175		980	13,877		2,640	22,998
OTHER							1,686
POTMEN	206,220	62,782	27,744	266,780	2,075	49,478	349,035
DIVERS	17,712	12	200	52,400		3,540	28,399
POTMAN-DIVERS	28,676	1,601	6,430	27,712		2,496	29,751
SUB-TOTAL	252,608	64,395	34,374	346,880	2,075	55,514	407,185
TOTAL	457,476	103,053	46,304	766,768	6,234	202,314	743,758
							144,547
							34,436
							2,504,888

* Based on annual reports filed by fisherman

